

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for selecting the nature or form of an alert used to announce a call made by a user participating in a customised alert service, the method including:
  - a. establishing a customised alert service configuration for a participating user, the customised alert service configuration being stored on one or more network accessible devices;
  - b. the participating user using a first communications terminal to make a call to a second communications terminal, the first and second communications terminals being remote from the one or more network accessible devices, the call being supported by a first communications service;
  - c. the second communications terminal sending a request to one of the one or more network accessible devices, requesting an alert descriptor in accordance with the customised alert service configuration;
  - d. the network accessible device identifying a chosen alert descriptor using the customised alert service configuration for the participating user;
  - e. the network accessible device transmitting the chosen alert descriptor to the second communications terminal; and
  - f. the second communications terminal announcing the call by activating an alert using the chosen alert descriptor.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting the nature or form of an alert used to announce a call made by a user participating in a customised alert service, the method including:

- a. establishing a customised alert service configuration for a participating user which includes multiple alert descriptors corresponding to different calling conditions, the customised alert service configuration being stored on one or more network accessible devices;
- b. the participating user using a first communications terminal to make a call to a second communications terminal, the call being supported by a first communications service; and
- c. the second communications terminal announcing the call by activating an alert using a chosen alert descriptor;
- d. wherein the chosen alert descriptor is selected from the participating user's multiple alert descriptors according to the customised alert service configuration for the participating user such that different alert descriptors are automatically selected based on the different calling conditions.

3. (Previously Presented) A method for selecting the nature or form of an alert used to announce a call made by a user participating in a customised alert service, the method including:

- a. providing a range of alert descriptors available for selection and use by participating users;
- b. establishing a customised alert service configuration for a participating user including one or more alert descriptors selected from the available

range of alert descriptors, the customised alert service configuration being stored on one or more network accessible devices;

- c. the participating user using a first communications terminal to make a call to a second communications terminal, the call being supported by a first communications service; and
- d. the second communications terminal announcing the call by activating an alert using an alert descriptor chosen in accordance with the customised alert service configuration for the participating user.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting the nature or form of an alert used to announce a call made by a user participating in a customised alert service, the method including:

- a. providing a range of alert descriptors corresponding to different calling conditions, the alert descriptors available for selection and use by participating users;
- b. establishing a customised alert service configuration for a participating user including one or more alert descriptors selected from the available range of alert descriptors, the customised alert service configuration being stored on one or more network accessible devices;
- c. the participating user using a first communications terminal to make a call to a second communications terminal, the call being supported by a first communications service; and
- d. the second communications terminal announcing the call by activating an alert using an alert descriptor-chosen in accordance with the customised alert service configuration for the participating user such

that different alert descriptors are automatically selected based on the different calling conditions.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein establishing the customised alert service configuration includes selecting an alert descriptor from a set of available alert descriptors.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the set of selectable alert descriptors is contained on a network accessible device.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein alert descriptor information is transmitted from one communications terminal to another during the course of a voice call between two or more terminals.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the transmission of alert descriptor information occurs:

- a. during pauses in voice conversation; or
- b. after voice conversation has ended; or
- c. interleaved with voice conversation.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein the establishing of a customised alert service includes providing information which identifies the participating user or first communications terminal or first communications service.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is chosen according to processing of the identification information.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the processing is performed by the second communications terminal.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the processing is performed by a server device.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the establishing of a customised alert service configuration for a participating user includes selecting and/or providing ancillary information for the participating user.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is chosen according to processing of the ancillary information and the identification information.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the processing of the ancillary information includes processing variables associated with the ancillary information, the associated variables selected from:

- a. temporal variables;
- b. seasonal and cultural variables;
- c. geographical variables;

proximity variables; and

- d. personal variables.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated to the second communications terminal from the first communications terminal.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated to the second communications terminal from a network accessible device.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated using the first communication service.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated using a communication path other than the first communication service.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the chosen alert descriptor has been communicated to the second communications terminal prior to a call set-up process.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated to the second communications terminal during a call set up process.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein the chosen alert descriptor is communicated to the second communications terminal asynchronous to a call set up process.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 19 wherein the alternative communications path makes use of the Internet.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the customised alert service operates within a network of a plurality of communications terminals and servers, wherein at least some of the communications terminals and servers participate in a caching scheme which allows alert descriptors to be sourced from a plurality of different servers or communications terminals within the network.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein users who receive calls are able to exercise control over the kinds of customised alerts that they are willing to receive.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein alerts are categorised according to their nature and/or content, and users who receive calls may choose to receive only particular categories of alerts.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 25 wherein a user who receives calls may elect that a call be announced by a combination of two different alerts, one selected by the receiving user and one selected by a calling user.

28 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the call is any one of the group of a telephone call, a voice over internet protocol call, a videophone call, a data call, a whiteboard sharing call, an instant messaging session, a multi-user gaming session.

29. (Currently Amended) A computerised system for enabling the nature or form of an alert used to announce a call made by a user participating in the system to a communications terminal participating in the system to be determined in accordance with the participating user's preferences, including:

- a. a plurality of communications terminals, at least some of which are capable of receiving and acting on ~~an~~multiple alert descriptor(s) and calls associated with alert descriptor(s), the alert descriptors corresponding to different calling conditions;
  - b. a data entry device for creating a customised alert service for a participating user;
  - c. configuration software for configuring the participating user's customised alert service, the configuring of the participating user's customised alert service including selecting or providing at least one alert descriptor for use with the participating user's customised alert service;
  - d. a database for storing the participating user's customised alert service configuration;
  - e. processing means for choosing an alert descriptor for use with the call made by the participating user to a receiving communications terminal;
- and

- f. ~~Means~~means of communicating alert descriptors to the receiving communications terminal;

wherein the chosen alert descriptor is selected in accordance with the configuration of the participating user's customised alert service such that different alert descriptors are automatically selected based on the different calling conditions.

30. (Original) A system according to claim 29 wherein the processing means is a communications terminal associated with the participating user.

31. (Original) A system according to claim 29 wherein the processing means is the receiving communications terminal.

32. (Original) A system according to claim 29 wherein the processing means is a server device.